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IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 3 and 10 as follows:

1. (previously presented) A check comprising:
sheet material;
means defining at least one pre-printed symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material;
and
means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the at least one pre-printed symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the pre-printed symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.
2. (previously presented) A check comprising:
sheet material;
at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material; and
means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.
3. (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of a symbol which is other

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than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the a check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the check based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

4-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on a check, the method comprising:

storing on the check the apriori reference image quality data which is representative of the at least one image quality characteristic of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

11. (previously presented) A method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document other than currency, the method comprising:

storing on the financial document apriori reference image quality data which is representative of an image quality characteristic of at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the financial document;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

retrieving the stored apriori reference image quality data;

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comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the image data which is representative of the image of the financial document to determine the image quality of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the financial document; and

providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the apriori reference image quality data with the image data.

12-13. (canceled)